

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of managing electronic devices comprising:
providing a main server including software for managing network resources from a single point of administration;
wirelessly connecting a plurality of electronic devices to said main server to create a wireless local area network (LAN); and
managing said electronic devices using said software, wherein said electronic devices include at least one of an appliance, an environmental control device, and an entertainment device.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing a main server comprises providing one of a desktop computer and a portable computer as said main server.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of wirelessly connecting comprises:
wirelessly transmitting an identification request from said main server;
wirelessly receiving a response from responding electronic devices within the wireless range of said main server; and
maintaining said wireless LAN including the main server and the responding electronic devices.
4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising providing an adjustable transmission power for said main server thereby providing an adjustable signal area for said wireless LAN.
5. The method of Claim 3, further comprising periodically updating information on the electronic devices connected to said wireless LAN.
6. The method of Claim 5, further comprising adding and dropping electronic devices from said wireless LAN as necessary.
7. The method of Claim 3, wherein said step of maintaining said wireless LAN comprises using a media access control (MAC) protocol.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of managing said electronic devices comprises:

- monitoring management initiating parameters for said electronic devices;
- determining a management action to be performed on an electronic device to be managed based on said management initiating parameters; and
- transmitting a management action data packet to said electronic device to be managed.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of monitoring management initiating parameters comprises monitoring at least one of a system clock and sensed parameters.

10. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

- receiving said management action data packet at said electronic device to be managed;

and

- performing said management action at said electronic device to be managed based on said management action data packet.

11. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

- generating a management action report at said electronic device to be managed;
- transmitting a report data packet including said management action report from said electronic device to be managed, said management action report containing information about whether said management action was completed by the electronic device to be managed.

12. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of wirelessly connecting a plurality of electronic devices comprises wirelessly connecting at least one of an office equipment device and a mobile terminal device to said main server.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of creating a wireless LAN comprises creating a wireless home network.

14. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of creating a wireless LAN comprises creating a wireless workplace network.

15. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of wirelessly connecting said electronic devices comprises wirelessly connecting said electronic devices to said main server such that said electronic devices can share the software and hardware resources of the main server.

16. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing Internet connectivity to said electronic devices through said main server.

17. A system for managing electronic devices comprising:

a main server including software for managing network resources from a single point of administration;

a communications device configured to wirelessly connect a plurality of electronic devices to said main server to create a wireless local area network (LAN); and

a processor configured to manage said electronic devices using said software, wherein said electronic devices include at least one of an appliance, an environmental control device, and an entertainment device.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein said main server comprises one of a desktop computer and a portable computer.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein said communications device is configured to wirelessly connect by:

wirelessly transmitting an identification request from said main server;

wirelessly receiving a response from responding electronic devices within the wireless range of said main server; and

maintaining said wireless LAN including the main server and the responding electronic devices.

20. The system of Claim 19, further comprising a power adjustment device configured to adjust transmission power of the communications device thereby providing an adjustable signal area for said wireless LAN.

21. The system of Claim 19, further comprising a communications protocol configured to periodically update information on the electronic devices connected to said wireless LAN.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein said communications protocol is configured to add and drop electronic devices from said wireless LAN as necessary.

23. The system of Claim 19, wherein said communications device is configured to maintain said wireless LAN by using a media access control (MAC) protocol.

24. The system of Claim 17, wherein said processor manages said electronic devices by:

- monitoring management initiating parameters for said electronic devices;
- determining a management action to be performed on an electronic device to be managed based on said management initiating parameters; and
- transmitting a management action data packet to said electronic device to be managed via said communications device.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein said processor monitors management initiating parameters by monitoring at least one of a system clock and sensed parameters.

26. The system of Claim 24, further comprising:

- another communications device configured to receive said management action data packet at said electronic device to be managed; and
- another processor configured to perform said management action at said electronic device to be managed based on said management action data packet.

27. The system of Claim 26, wherein said another processor is further configured to:

- generate a management action report at said electronic device to be managed;
- transmit a report data packet including said management action report from said electronic device to be managed via said another communications device, said management action report containing information about whether said management action was completed

by the electronic device to be managed.

28. The system of Claim 17, wherein said communications device is configured to wirelessly connect a plurality of electronic devices by wirelessly connecting at least one of an office equipment device and a mobile terminal device to said main server.

29. The system of Claim 17, wherein said communications device creates a wireless LAN by creating a wireless home network.

30. The system of Claim 17, wherein said communications device creates a wireless LAN by creating a wireless workplace network.

31. The system of Claim 17, wherein said communications device is configured to wirelessly connect said electronic devices by wirelessly connecting said electronic devices to said main server such that said electronic devices can share the software and hardware resources of the main server.

32. The system of Claim 17, wherein said communications device is configured to provide Internet connectivity to said electronic devices through said main server.

33. A system for managing electronic devices comprising:

main server means for providing software for managing network resources from a single point of administration;

means for wirelessly connecting a plurality of electronic devices to said main server means to create a wireless local area network (LAN); and

means for managing said electronic devices using said software, wherein said electronic devices include at least one of an appliance, an environmental control device, and an entertainment device.

34. The system of Claim 33, further comprising means for providing an adjustable signal area for said wireless LAN.

35. The system of Claim 33, further comprising means for periodically updating information on the electronic devices connected to said wireless LAN.

36. The system of Claim 35, further comprising means for adding and dropping electronic devices from said wireless LAN as necessary.

37. The system of Claim 33, further comprising:
means for receiving said management action data packet at said electronic device to be managed; and
means for performing said management action at said electronic device to be managed based on said management action data packet.

38. The system of Claim 37, further comprising:
means for generating a management action report at said electronic device to be managed;
means for transmitting a report data packet including said management action report from said electronic device to be managed, said management action report containing information about whether said management action was completed by the electronic device to be managed.

39. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a computer system, which when executed by the computer system, cause the computer system to perform the steps in the method recited in any one of Claims 1-16.